

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
COUNCILMEMBER
THIRD DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2002

CONTACT: George Biagi

(619)236-6633 Fax:(619)595-1481

gbiagi@sanidiego.gov

Town Hall Meetings On North Park Theatre Parking Solutions Conclude

Three Development and Financing Options To Be Explored

SAN DIEGO--On Thursday, December 5, Councilmember Toni Atkins met with community members to hear a progress report from City Redevelopment Agency staff on the North Park Theatre and the proposed parking structure across the street from the theater on North Park Way between 29th and 30th streets.

The meeting was the third and last in a series of meetings hosted by Councilmember Atkins in conjunction with North Park Main Street, the Greater North Park Community Planning Committee, the North Park Community Association, the North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee and other community leaders to engage North Park residents and business owners in the ongoing discussion about how to create the parking needed to make the North Park Theatre viable as a live performance venue.

At the meeting, Redevelopment staff reported on three financing and development scenarios for constructing the necessary parking:

- 1) A structure funded and built by the City with redevelopment funds;
- 2) A public/private partnership to develop a three- or four-story parking structure that would include up to 400 parking spaces and 5,000 square feet of commercial/retail space; and
- 3) A public/private partnership to develop a seven- or eight-story parking structure as part of a much larger residential condominium project.

The City's Redevelopment staff presented these proposals and responded to comments from the public. They will issue a final report and recommendation on January 22nd. The public is invited to learn more about these proposals and provide their input at the following meetings:

North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee: Tuesday, January 14, 7:00pm, at the North Park

Community Service Center, 3956 30th Street.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee: Tuesday, January 21, 6:30pm, at North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way.

City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 10:00am, at City Council Chambers, City Hall, 202 "C" Street, Downtown.

"The approval of a development plan for the parking structure represents the last major hurdle to restore the North Park Theatre as a live performance venue," said Councilmember Atkins. "We're closer than we've ever been to fulfilling a dream that we've shared for the past two decades."

The City has already negotiated a development agreement with an experienced local developer, Bud Fischer, who has secured a reputable San Diego Theatre company as a tenant and operator. If all goes according to plan, the North Park Theatre will reopen in 24 months as the new home of the Lyric Opera San Diego (formerly San Diego Comic Opera).

#